

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /078 W

-----019580 061642Z /70

O 061609Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0532
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03503

RAMSTEIN FOR MENDELSON

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC MEETING 6 APRIL

REF: (A) STATE 87928 DTG 060022Z APR 78, (B) USNATO 3381
DTG 031909Z APR 78, (C) STATE 83039 DTG 311549Z MAR 78,
(D) USNATO 3277 DTG 301943Z MAR 78

1. TIMING - SPC CHAIRMAN REVIEWED THE BIDDING ON TIMING
NOTING US, UK, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK AND NORWAY ARE IN
FAVOR OF TABLING THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE THIS ROUND
AND THAT CANADA PREFERS THE INITIATIVE BE TABLED SHORTLY
BEFORE THE SSOD BUT IS WILLING TO ACCEPT CONSENSUS.

. FRG REP STATED HE WAS STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS BUT
WAS EXPECTING THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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. ITALIAN AND BELGIAN REPS WERE STILL WITHOUT FORMAL
INSTRUCTIONS ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION INDICATED BELGIUM
COULD ACCEPT CONSENSUS AND ITALIAN REP EXPECTED
INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE RECEIVED BY 10 APRIL. (PRIVATELY,
ITALIAN REP INDICATED ROME WAS AWAITING DEFINITIVE FRG
POSITION AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY

ACCEPTING CONSENSUS.)

2. DATA DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST

. AMORPHOUS BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR SPC DISCUSSION OF DATA (REFS B AND D) HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL A WORKING GROUP REPORT ON DATA IS AVAILABLE. ITALIAN REP STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUBSTANTIVE RATHER THAN THEORETICAL DISCUSSION AND HOPED THAT "THE DELEGATIONS MOST CONCERNED" WOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS AS WELL AS THE PROMISED BELGIAN PAPER.

3. WORKING GROUP DATA STUDY MANDATE

. CHAIRMAN NOTED APPROVAL OF THE WG DATA STUDY MANDATE. (PARA 10 REF D AS MODIFIED PARA 5 REF B). WG STAFF REPRESENTATIVES PROJECTED THAT THE INITIAL PORTION OF THE STUDY, THE STRAIGHT DATA ANALYSIS, COULD BE READY FOR WG REVIEW ON 21 APRIL. DEPENDING ON REACTIONS FROM CAPITALS, THIS STUDY COULD BE COMPLETED BY THE THIRD WEEK IN MAY.

4. AVERAGE MANNING LEVEL DRAFT GUIDANCE

. US REP CIRCULATED COMPROMISE LANGUAGE FOR FIRST PARAGRAPH OF DRAFT AML GUIDANCE (REF A) AND NOTED
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THAT SPC LANGUAGE (PARA 6 REF B) APPEARED OVERLY NEGATIVE PERHAPS SUGGESTING THAT NATO WAS REJECTING POSSIBLY USEFUL OPTIONS.

. BELGIAN AND ITALIAN REPS SUGGESTED DELETION OF "YET" AND "EARLY" IN FIRST SENTENCE. ITALIAN REP ALSO INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR "NO HURRY" IN SECOND SENTENCE RATHER THAN US SUGGESTION OF "NO IMMEDIATE URGENCY." WITH THESE CHANGES, BELGIAN AND ITALIAN REPS INDICATED PERSONALLY THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE US PROPOSED LANGUAGE.

. FRG REP, HOWEVER, STATED THAT INITIAL VERSION (PARA 6, REF B) OF FIRST PARAGRAPH ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE WG AML STUDY AND THAT THE SKEPTICISM IN THE DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS IS JUSTIFIED. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE SUGGESTED DROPPING "YET" FROM THE US VERSION WOULD IMPROVE ITS ACCEPTABILITY BUT THAT SUBSTITUTION OF "NO IMMEDIATE URGENCY" FOR "NO HURRY" WAS AN IMPROVEMENT. (SEPARATELY UK REP INDICATED THAT US SUGGESTED LANGUAGE WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO LONDON).

5. COMMENT: SPC OBVIOUSLY HOPED FOR AGREEMENT AT APRIL 6 MEETING BUT LONG EXPERIENCE HAS VIRTUALLY IMMUNIZED REPS TO COMPLICATIONS POSITING DELAY. WHILE WE PRESUMABLY COULD SWAY SOME DELEGATIONS TO OUR VIEW, E.G. THOSE ANXIOUS FOR ANY SORT OF AGREEMENT AND OTHERS WHO RECOGNIZE THE DRAFT GUIDANCE DIRECTS FURTHER NAC REVIEW AFTER THE EAST ANSWERS WESTERN QUESTIONS, WASHINGTON MUST WEIGH THE POTENTIAL FOR MARGINAL IMPROVEMENTS AGAINST THE COMPLICATIONS OF BELABORING A MINOR ISSUE INTO A PROBLEM OF GREATER MAGNITUDE. WE RECOMMEND MOVING QUICKLY TO BRING THIS

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 03503

PERIPHERAL ISSUE TO A CLOSE BY EITHER ACCEPTING BELGIAN/
ITALIAN SUGGESTIONS TO US SUGGESTED FIRST SENTENCE
OR AGREEING TO FIRST SENTENCE AS DRAFTED IN CURRENT
TEXT (PARA 6, REF B). ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE.

END COMMENT.

6. NEXT SPC TENTATIVELY SET FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 7
SHOULD FRG RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS. OTHERWISE SPC WILL
MEET MONDAY, 10 APRIL. BENNETT

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